

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 /088 W

-----021600Z 037704 /43

P R 021435Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7716

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 2711

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: BOPHUTHATSWANA REJECTS CITIZENSHIP AND  
CONSOLIDATION CLAUSES OF INDEPENDENCE

REF: (A) PRETORIA 0411, (B) PRETORIA 0853

1. SUMMARY: CHIEF MANGOPE AND BOPHUTHATSWANA CABINET HAVE  
INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE UNLESS  
TSWANA PERSONS NOT ACCEPTING CITIZENSHIP IN HOMELAND RETAIN  
SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP AND ONLY IF SAG REVISES PLANS FOR  
CONSOLIDATION OF BOPHUTHATSWANA. SAG HAS REACTED BY SAYING  
IT WILL GO FORWARD WITH CURRENT LEGISLATION WHICH DEPRIVES  
ALL TSWANAS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP AND LEAVES  
LAND SITUATION AS IS. IT PRESENTLY UNCLEAR IF MANGOPE IS SINCERE  
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IN EFFORTS OR IF IT IS ONLY PRE-ELECTION PLOY IN FACE OF RISING  
ANTI-INDPENDENCE SENTIMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 6 AND AGAIN ON MAY 25, BANTU AFFAIRS MINISTER,  
M. C. BOTHAN, READ IN PARLIAMENT PROPOSED INDEPENDENCE BILL  
FOR BOPHUTHATSWANA ENTITLED "STATUS OF BOPHUTHATSWANA  
BILL." BILL, WHICH IS BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT, CREATED

FEW SURPRISES. OF NOTE, HOWEVER, WAS CITIZENSHIP CLAUSE, PARA 6, SUBPARAS 1 THRU 4. CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA WAS VERY SIMILAR TO ALL-ENCOMPASSING ONE ACCEPTED BY TRANSKEI LAST YEAR EXCEPT THAT IT ADDS KEY PHRASES THAT ALL PERSONS WHO BECOME BOPHUTHATSWANA CITIZENS "SHALL CEASE TO BE A SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN" AND THAT RENUNCIATION OF BOPHUTHATSWANA CITIZENSHIP CAN ONLY COME AFTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAG AND NEW GOVERNMENT OF BOPHUTHATSWANA. THIS, IN PRACTICE, IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO TRANSKEI CITIZENS. DIFFERENCE IS THAT ANY AMBIGUITY ABOUT STATUS HAS BEEN SETTLED AND MINISTER BOTHA MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS REMARKS AT SECOND READING OF BILL THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO LOSS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP IF PERSONS FIT ANY CATEGORIES OUTLINED IN BILL. AS IN CASE OF TRANSKEI, THIS MEANS NOT ONLY PERSONS BORN IN BOPHUTHATSWANA WITH TSWANA PARENTS OR WHO SPEAK TSWANA OR ANY RELATED LANGUAGE, BUT ANY PERSON WHO IS "RELATED TO ANY MEMBER OF THE POPULATION CONTEMPLATED" IN ABOVE CATEGORIES OR "HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH ANY PART OF SUCH POPULATION OR IS CULTURALLY OR OTHERWISE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY MEMBER OR PART OF SUCH POPULATION." AT TIME OF SECOND READING OF BILL, BOTHA STATED THAT BOPHUTHATSWANA CABINET HAD AGREED TO PLACE THIS PROVISION IN THEIR CONSTITUTION.

3. ON APPROXIMATELY MAY 25, DAY OF SECOND READING OF BILL, CHIEF MINISTER, LUCAS MANGOPE, APPARENTLY SENT A LETTER TO BOTHA REJECTING BOTH CITIZENSHIP PROVISION AND CONSOLIDATION PLANS. LETTER WAS ALSO SENT TO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS IN PARLAMENT AND WAS MADE PUBLIC THERE BY PRP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MP ALEX BORRAINE. LETTER, WHICH IS SIGNED BY ALL SEVEN BOPHUTHATSWANA CABINET MEMBERS, STATES THAT ANY TSWANA WHO WISHES TO REMAIN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN SHOULD HAVE THAT RIGHT AND THAT SAG PLANS FOR CONSOLIDATION ARE "HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE." SPECIFICALLY IT STATES SECTION 6(3) MUST BE AMENDED DURING CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION TO PROVIDE THAT PERSONS REJECTING HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP WOULD AUTOMATICALLY RETAIN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP. IT STATES 1936 LAND ACT IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC AND DEMANDS IN PARTICULAR THAT WHITE URBAN AREA OF MAFEKING AND BLACK AREA OF MORETELE WHICH IS TO BE EXCISED AT INDEPENDENCE, BE KEPT WITHIN BOPHUTHATSWANA. LETTER STATES THAT OTHERWISE, CABINET CANNOT ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE "WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CAUSE STATELESS PEOPLE. IT WOULD BE AN ACT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY." ON MAY 29, IN AN ADDRESS TO RUITSPRUIT AUDIENCE, MANGOPE AMPLIFIED CITIZENSHIP ISSUE BY STATING THAT HE WOULD NEVER FORCE CITIZENSHIP ON ANYONE, INCLUDING PERSONS WITHIN BOPHUTHATSWANA AND NOT JUST URBAN DWELLERS.

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-----021600Z 037806 /43

P R 021435Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7717  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
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4. SAG REACTION CAME ON MAY 30 WHEN, ACCORDING TO PRESS, BOTH SAID THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF AMENDING BILL. IN ANGRY DEFENSE OF THIS DECISION. HE STATED THAT MANGOPE AND BOPHUTHATSWANA PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN HAPPY WITH LEGISLATION. HE ACCUSED OPPOSITION PARTIES OF "USING BLACKS" AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND SAID HE HAD "STRONG SUSPICIONS" OF WHO WAS BEHIND WRITING OF THE LETTER. PRP AND UP MEMBERS HAVE USED OCCASION TO CALL FOR BOTH SA'S RESIGNATION, ACCUSING HIM OF CONCEALING INFORMATION FROM PARLIAMENT, BOPHUTHATSWANA CABINET AND HIS OWN PARTY.

5. WITHIN BOPHUTHATSWANA, REACTIONS HAVE BEEN MIXED. SEVERAL PROMINENT TSWANA'S HAVE WELCOMED IT. PROMINENT AND OUTSPOKEN CIVIC LEADER, G. XORILE, STATED THAT HE WAS "HAPPY THAT THE CHIEF, LATE AS IT IS, HAS SEEN REASON."  
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HOWEVER, STRONG REACTION HAS COME FROM OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS. OPPOSITION LEADER, CHIEF HERMAN MASELOANE, STATED THAT MANGOPE HAD AGREED TO BILL AND THAT THIS WAS NOW JUST A PUBLIC SHOW FOR ELECTIONS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 24-25. HE STATED THAT WHEN MANGOPE "TESTED OPINIONS AMONG TSWANAS HE TOOK FRIGHT."

6. COMMENT: ISSUE IS UNCLEAR AS TO MANGOPE'S TRUE INTENTIONS. SOURCES CLOSE TO HIM SAY THAT IN APRIL 25 MEETING WITH BOTHA AND OTHER BANTU AFFAIRS OFFICIALS, HE DID ACCEPT CITIZENSHIP CLAUSE AS READ IN PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, PRIVATELY MANGOPE, AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY 22, WAS ADAMANT IN TELLING EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD INSIST ON CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS LAND CONSOLIDATION. HE STATED THEN THAT HE WOULD NOT REJECT INDEPENDENCE OVER THESE ISSUES. HOWEVER, GROWING VOCAL OPPOSITION IN BOPHUTHATSWANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO INDEPENDENCE (SEE PRETORIA A-37) AND POSSIBILITY THAT MANGOPE MIGHT POTENTIALLY LOSE MAJORITY IN ASSEMBLY IN ELECTIONS MAY INDEED HAVE LED HIM TO RETHINK POSITION. OBVIOUSLY, MANGOPE HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE TO FORCE ISSUE WITH SAG, FACT THAT HE COINCIDENTALLY POINTS OUT IN HIS LETTER. IT IS THEREFORE UNCERTAIN JUST HOW FAR HE WILL ACTUALLY PUSH ISSUE PARTICULARLY WHEN IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SAG WILL NOT STEP DOWN. MAKING BLACKS IN WHITE AREAS CITIZENS OF AND THEREBY SEEKING POLITICAL DISPENSATION IN HOMELANDS IS KEYSTONE TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009